

NSC Briefing
5 August 1953

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**EFFECT OF EAST EUROPEAN UNREST
ON SOVIET CAPABILITY TO ATTACK THE UNITED STATES**

I Summary of Unrest in East Germany

- A. East German disorders of 17 June based on widespread popular disaffection.**
- B. Hundreds of thousands of workers strike and demonstrate in 60 cities, including uranium mining center.**
- C. Disorders quelled by overwhelming show Soviet military strength - tension and sullen discontent remain and are evidenced 9-11 July by work slowdowns.**
- D. 2 August -riots flare in 5 large East German cities over stoppage of travel to West Berlin food relief centers.**

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II Summary of Satellite Unrest

A. Demonstrations and strikes in Czechoslovakia first week in June highlight growing satellite unrest.

(1) Czech demonstrations controlled by local security forces.

(2) No further Czech disturbances noted.

B. Reports of recent widescale resistance in Poland are unconfirmed.

C. Similar reports in other satellites lack confirmation and are probably false.

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III Soviet military involvement in East German disturbances

A. As aftermath of 17 June riots Soviet troops deployed in at least 21 East German cities.

(1) Elements of most of 22 Soviet divisions in East Germany quell riots.

(2) Parts of three Soviet divisions (about 25,000 troops) involved in East Berlin.



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B. Soviet military force return to normal activities early July.

(1) In Berlin, however, two fresh divisions replace those deployed on 17 June.

(2) Stronger troop units located in strategic billeting areas as security measure.

C. Effect on Soviet military in Germany of disturbances is minimal.

(1) Some dislocation of training routine

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(S) Military effectiveness not significantly affected.

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IV Effect of East European Disturbances on Soviet Military Capabilities.

A. Recent disturbances in Eastern Europe do not directly effect Soviet ability to attack US:

(1) no threat to Soviet atomic stockpile or long range air forces.

(2) no threat to Soviet staging bases.

B. Events have undermined Soviet military capabilities against West Europe:

(1) adverse effect on lines of communications.

(2) lack of reliability of satellite forces.

(3) result and necessity to divert Soviet troops to security duties.

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